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- Allen, Industrial studies: Europe.  
 Arnold, See and say series: Book 1.  
 Arnold, See and say series: Book 2.  
 Arnold, Stepping stones to literature. 3d reader.  
 Altscheler, Guns of Shiloh  
 Altscheler, Soldier of Manhattan  
 Anderson, Stories and tales  
 Baldwin, Baldwin's readers  
 Baldwin, Fairy stories and fables.  
 Blaisdell, Twilight town  
 Blanchard, Girl of '76.  
 Brady, Colonial fights and fighters  
 Burchill, Plan of work for the Progressive road to reading  
 Brown, Uncle David's boy  
 Burgess, Goops and how to be them  
 Burgess, More goops and how not to be them  
 Burgess, Mother West Wind's animal friend  
 Burnett, Little Lord Fauntleroy  
 Burnham, Descriptive stories for all the year  
 Carleton, Dorothy  
 Carpenter, North America  
 Carryl, Davy and the goblin  
 Coe, Story hour readers primer  
 Coe, Story hour readers Book 1.  
 Coe, Story hour readers Book 2.  
 Curtis, Marjorie's schooldays  
 Curtis, Play and recreation  
 Dinsmore, Teaching a district school  
 Dimock, Be prepared  
 Drysdale, Young supercargo  
 Fassett, Beacon first reader  
 Fassett, Beacon second reader  
 Gilchrist, Helen and the uninvited guest  
 Grinnell, Blackfoot Indian stories  
 Grover, Overall boys  
 Grover, Sunbonnet babies  
 Half a hundred stories for the little people.  
 Hamlin, Catharine's proxy  
 Harrison, Panama Canal  
 Heath, Heath readers 3d reader  
 Hunt, California the golden  
 Johnson, What to do at recess  
 Kipling, Just so stories  
 McDonald, Manuel in Mexico  
 Maeterlinck, Bluebird  
 Maxwell, Speaking and writing vol. 1-2.  
 Mills, Spell of the rockies  
 Maran, Kwahu  
 Morgan, How to dress a doll  
 Oswell, Old time tales  
 Peary, Snow baby  
 Perkins, Japanese twins  
 Potter, Tale of Mrs. Tittlemouse  
 Potter, Tailor of Gloucester  
 Rankin, Adopting of Rose Marie  
 Roberts, Neighbors unknown  
 Robinson, At the open door  
 Ruskin, King of the Golden River  
 Sabin, Early American history for young Americans  
 St Nicholas  
 Serl, In the animal world  
 Sindelar, Nixie Bunny in workaday-land  
 Smith, Boy Captive in Canada  
 Smith, Boys and girls of seventy-seven  
 Smythe, Primary reader  
 Spyri, Heidi  
 Sneath, Golden deed book  
 Sneath, Golden door book  
 Sneath, Golden key book  
 Sneath, Golden path book  
 Sneath, Golden word book  
 Tappan, Children's hour  
 Tomlinson, Boy soldiers of 1812  
 Tomlinson, Red chief  
 Tomlinson, Three colonial boys  
 Tomlinson, Washington young aids  
 Wheelock, Birds of California  
 Wiltse, Hero folk of ancient Britain  
 Wiley, Wewanee the little Indian boy.

### LIBRARY WORK WITH FOREIGNERS

BY CAROLINE F. WEBSTER, *Library Organizer, New York State Library*

After listening to a most delightful discussion at the meeting of a literary club connected with a library in one of our inland villages on some of the striking biographies of the past two years, when the charm of "The promised land" was described with apparent feeling, "From alien to citizen" was referred to as a book that should be read by everyone who would know of the difficulties and hard-

ships of those who come to our shores with high hopes, and the marvelous faith that could not be shattered by the many disillusionings awaiting Abraham Rhibany on his "Far journey" was dwelt upon with fervor. And when this was followed by a discussion on Immigration it seemed advisable to give a practical turn to the meeting and suggest that the enthusiasm felt for these men and women could be diverted

into useful channels by broadening the library work of the village so that it would include the foreign-born residents.

Little enthusiasm greeted the suggestion that foreigners be urged to use the library, that foreign papers be subscribed to and that books in foreign languages be placed upon the shelves. The objections raised were that "this sort of thing might be all right in some places, but the foreigners in *S* were a poor lot;" "A few went to night school but it was English they wanted;" "There was not enough money to buy all the English books demanded in the village, so why create a new demand that could not be satisfied?" (A reason always given by the cautious and conservative when new work is suggested.)

This personal experience has a bearing on our discussion only so far as this village which we call *S* is typical. Perhaps we can decide whether or not it is and whether its prejudices are the prejudices of other villages in the country. Are its people peculiar in liking to read and discuss the hardships of the immigrant, but think of him as someone far away? Are its library trustees typical? If so, are they going to "pull down the blinds" and hold themselves aloof from the stranger within their own little gates, while looking with admiring eyes at the stranger who has "made good" in the great world outside?

If this point of view is typical, can Library Commissions do anything to change this, or must they, too, "pull down the blinds" and be satisfied with work done with the English-speaking people in their borders?

*S* is typical in so far as there are people there who care to read about immigration and its problems but have no feeling of responsibility toward the immigrant living two blocks away. Haven't we all known people who "loved to read nature books" but had little use for nature at first hand?

We all know, too, that it is not the one who travels most who reads the travel books, and it is not the farmer, but the city man, who is the greatest reader of

much of our farm literature. The psychology of all this would take us a long way from our present subject, but it is all typified in the request of a very ragged little girl who went into the Rochester Library one day last winter and said, "Please, lady, I want a story that tells of the sad and wealthy lives of the rich."

*S* is typical in so far as a few of its people are self-satisfied—every community has a few people who are satisfied with things as they are, but fortunately no community is entirely made up of such people—and if there is only one person in a community with a library vision for the foreigners, "the blinds are going to be raised" and the Commission ought to be in a position to help raise them.

Massachusetts, as usual a leader in things educational, grasped the opportunity for work in this line. In 1912 its Legislature authorized the Commission to appoint a secretary to look after the interests of the foreign-speaking people in the state. Other states that are conscious of their needs must soon follow suit, for this is no academic question that we are discussing, but a very real problem that is confronting us. When we pause to consider that almost one-third (to be exact, 30.2%) of the entire population of New York state is foreign born, that in Massachusetts 31.5% is foreign born, in Rhode Island 33%, Minnesota 26%, North Dakota 27%, California 24%, and the New England states, once the most essentially American section of the country, now have less than two-fifths of its population consisting of native born of native parentage, it is not too much to expect to have some one on the Commission of each of those states whose entire time should be given to looking after the library interests of these people.

It would seem to be a foregone conclusion that any state with a large foreign population should have someone connected with the Commission who would not only co-operate with libraries by giving advice as to selection and arrangement of foreign books and suggesting a possible point

of contact with each race, but such a person should be in touch with library trustees, employers of labor, patriotic and civic associations and foreign papers.

The libraries in our smaller towns are still singularly remiss in their work with foreigners—as I write, two small libraries that are doing excellent work with their English patrons come to mind. They are libraries situated in villages with a population of about 6,000 people, two-thirds of whom are foreign born. These libraries are liberally supported by taxes (a portion of which is paid by foreigners). One of these has no books for foreigners on its shelves, while the other has 75 volumes in a traveling library from Albany.

Should not these libraries be advised—not on the basis of missionary work, but as a measure of self-preservation—to study the needs of the foreigners and then to try to supply these needs? One does not have to go very deeply into this subject to recognize in the foreigner of today the voter of tomorrow, the professor in the university the day after and our president the next generation.

Many city libraries have for a number of years been awake to their opportunities and the foreigner has had equal opportunity with the native. One has only to think of Providence, and its work with foreigners under Miss Reid comes to mind; Passaic, and the work done by Miss Campbell with its foreign-born citizens stands out, or Buffalo, and we see the Polish branch, with Mrs. Kudlicka, a Polish woman, in charge. An so on through Cleveland, Chicago and New York, with their rooms and branches given over to various nationalities.

But we are looking at it from a different angle and our problems are different from theirs. We must get the small library outlook on this as on other problems and study the situation through its eyes, but with a larger vision. Our problems differ so, too, in different states, that it is with difficulty that one considers fundamental principles. The problem of one city is often greater than the problem presented

by a whole state. Think of Calumet, with its 24 different nationalities, as against Minnesota with one nationality predominating. The problems presented in the states populated from the northern countries of Europe are as nothing compared with those from the eastern and southern countries. The Germans and the Swedes are so nearly akin to us that they rapidly Americanize, but the immigrants from the eastern and southern countries of Europe are slow to absorb our ideals.

It is because of these differences that any general discussion of commission work is difficult, and it would be impossible to give any suggestions that would apply equally to all Commissions. The ideal, of course, for any state with a large foreign population is to have a person attached to the Commission whose whole time would be devoted to work with foreigners. But the majority of our state legislatures have not seen the wisdom of such a course, and it is for us to consider another way out. For most Commissions at present, this is through the traveling library, and our traveling library problems can be briefly outlined in three questions:

What sort of books shall we include in them?

Where shall we find authoritative lists of books in foreign languages?

How can the widest possible use be made of the books?

I believe that books in foreign languages must be included; books in as many languages as there are nationalities in a state. That the foreigner ought to have books in his own language I supposed had passed the period of debate, but during the past winter I have learned that there are library trustees and some teachers who feel that only English books should be bought for foreigners. Every time this is insisted upon I am reminded of Miss Campbell's story of the rebuke administered to her by one of her Slovak patrons when he approached her requesting that she buy some books for the Slovak people. After listening to what he had to say, she asked him if from the

point of view of the library, he really thought it more desirable to provide books in this language than to spend the money at their disposal in providing the very best books in English, which the foreigners could enjoy as soon as they had mastered the language? He turned on her at once and said: "My dear lady, I have read much and studied all about this country and have only found two things native to it, the Indian and the buffalo; now which are you that you speak of us as foreigners?"

But where are we to find the authoritative lists? There are many pitfalls for the unwary in buying foreign books for traveling libraries. The problem presents difficulties undreamed of in our own language. Following blindly the lists of others is always unsafe, but one must be doubly sure of the pilot in buying books in foreign languages. A short time ago, for our traveling libraries, we ordered from a dealer the duplicate of a list published by a library of the highest standing, thinking we had a safe guide. To our amazement, when the books were received a manikin appeared with them. The manikin had been listed as a book on the library list. It was useful to our medical department, but of little use in a traveling library collection. But for authoritative lists, what have we? There are the few A. L. A. lists and the invaluable Italian lists prepared by Mr. Carr for the Immigrant Publication Society that are authoritative, but they do not pretend to supply our needs. Can the League offer a way out by publishing more lists? Mr. Carr, president of the Immigrant Publication Society, in speaking at the meeting of the Eastern Section of the League in January, said that the Publication Society expects to publish a Yiddish list and one for the Spanish-speaking Jew, and they hope before long to publish books on citizenship and United States history as well as books

about America in simple English. This, of course, will be of great assistance, but the society is limited for funds and must perforce work slowly. At the Eastern Section meeting there was some discussion of close co-operation between the League and this society. To some a commission and library membership seemed advisable, but no decision was reached, for the needs of different commissions varied greatly. The society work at present is confined to so few languages, but there unquestionably will be opportunity for co-operation as the work develops.

Beside the need for foreign books and authoritative lists for buying these books, we must have simple manuals in English, simple books for learning the language, books which tell in simple and clear English the story of our country, its great men and its government. At present the compiling of such lists is comparatively easy, simply because there is so little material from which to choose. Couldn't the influence of the League be brought to bear upon publishers so that more and better books of this nature be published?

At the meeting of the Eastern Section of the League it was demonstrated that work with foreigners was on the increase. The majority of the Commissions there represented reported that more books and in a greater number of languages were being demanded. The question was raised at that time as to whether it was advisable to have a committee appointed for the League to report on work done by various commissions and perhaps suggest methods of future work, and they recommended to the Western Section, about to convene in Chicago, that such a committee be appointed. Of course, each state will have to solve its problems in its own way, but a central committee might be of great assistance and those of us who are groping in the dark need all the assistance possible in our search for light.